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Akin Votes to Bolster Broadcast Standards

Act raises indecency fine from \$50,000 to \$500,000

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today U.S. Representative Todd Akin (R-MO) voted for legislation to give the FCC much greater authority to fine networks and entertainers for willful violation of indecency standards. The Broadcast Decency Enforcement Act of 2004 (BDEA) passed the house with broad bi-partisan support and will give the FCC the teeth it needs to enforce existing standards. The act increases the fine for broadcasting indecent or profane material from \$50,000 to \$500,000 per violation.

"Broadcast decency has long been a serious issue," said Akin, "but in the wake of the infamous 2004 Super Bowl half-time performance my office has received literally hundreds of calls expressing concerns over standards. Today, the House has taken a step toward demanding much more accountability from broadcasters."

"To willingly broadcast profane or indecent material, especially during prime time which is meant to be safe for family viewing, is a serious violation of the public trust and must be accompanied by commensurate fines and penalties," said Akin, "The FCC is expected to rigorously enforce broadcast standards and these new penalties will make such enforcement more meaningful."